

Message Text

SECRET

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12
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
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R 260905Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3063

S E C R E T TAIPEI 6016

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TW
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL
APPOINTMENT

REF: STATE 211449

1. WE WERE NOT AWARE AMBASSADOR SHEN WAS ACTIVELY SEEKING
APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT AND WE HAVE NO SOLID INFORMATION
ON CONTENTS OF LETTER FROM PREMIER CHIANG. WE THINK LETTER
MIGHT BE ANOTHER INVITATION TO PRESIDENT TO VISIT ROC,
PERHAPS MORE FORMAL THAN THAT CONVEYED BY EMBTEL 5900.

2. CONCEIVABLY, LETTER MAY REFLECT FOLLOWING MESSAGE WHICH
CCK RECENTLY ACKED THAT I CONVEY TO PRESIDENT FORD AND WHICH I
WAS IN PROCESS OF TRANSMITTING: BEGIN QUOTE
REFERRING TO HIS HAVING MET THE PRESIDENT IN 1970 AND
HAVING FOLLOWED HIS ACTIVITIES CAREFULLY EVER SINCE, PREMIER
ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT HIS BEST WISHES FOR
SUCCESS. HE STATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO
CONTINUE PAST POLICY OF CONDUCTING ITS DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS OPENLY AND ABOVE BOARD. GROC'S DEEDS WOULD
CONTINUE TO CORRESPOND WITH ITS WORDS AND HE WOULD
CONTINUE TO TRY TO AVOID ANY EMBARRASSMENT TO U.S. HE
HOPED THERE WOULD BE A MUTUAL SPIRIT IN US-ROC RELATIONS,
AND HE EMPHASIZED THAT IF THERE WERE, THERE WAS NOTHING
WE COULD NOT DISCUSS WITH EACH OTHER. END QUOTE.

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3. ALTHOUGH LETTERSHEN HAS BEEN ASKED TO DELIVER MAY,

IF INDEED IT IS ON THIS SUBJECT, GO BEYOND ABOVE QUOTED MESSAGE IN SETTING FORTH GROC'S POSITION IN FACE OF CONTINUING NORMALIZATION OF US-PRC RELATIONS, I DOUBT SPIRIT WOULD BE DIFFERENT.

4. WHATEVER THE EXACT CONTENT OF MESSAGE, I THINK A KEY PURPOSE OF SHEN'S PROPOSED CALL IS SEARCH FOR SOME REASSURANCE WHICH CONTINUING CONTACT WITH USG AT HIGH LEVEL ALONE CAN PROVIDE. I SUSPECT THAT KNOWLEDGE HERE IN TAIWAN THAT PRESIDENT HAD RECEIVED SHEN WOULD BE ALMOST AS IMPORTANT IN THIS SENSE AS ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION.

5. RECOMMENDATION: ASSUMING IT WOULD NOT CREATE UNDUE DIFFICULTY IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PRC, I WOULD HOPE PRESIDENT COULD GRANT SHEN'S REQUEST. ON THE ONE HAND, I SEE NO DANGER OF GROC'S MISCONSTRUING PRESIDENT'S ACTION AS EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE ANY THE LESS DETERMINED TO PROCEED FURTHER WITH PEKING. ON THE OTHER HAND, I AM CONVINCED THAT GESTURE OF THIS SORT ON OUR PART IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO PREMIER IN PROCESS OF BRINGING ROC SOCIETY ALONG WITH HIM IN DIFFICULT ADJUSTMENT. TIMING WOULD BE ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE, BECAUSE WE KNOW SOME KEY INDIVIDUALS IN MILITARY ARE FEELING RATHER BRUISED BY WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE OUR UNRESPONSIVENESS TO THEIR DEFENSE NEEDS.
UNGER

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